



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ms

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/922,813	08/06/2001	Michael L. Howard	2291.2.17	8847

21552 7590 09/13/2006

MADSON & AUSTIN
GATEWAY TOWER WEST
SUITE 900
15 WEST SOUTH TEMPLE
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84101

EXAMINER

DEAN, RAYMOND S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2618

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/922,813

Applicant(s)

HOWARD ET AL.

Examiner

Raymond S. Dean

Art Unit

2618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 70 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 70 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on July 5, 2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see remarks filed July 5, 2006 with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 25, 43, 59, and 70 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found prior art Allison et al. (US 2003/0083078).

Petite further teaches outbound messages being sent from electronic devices to the computer and inbound messages being sent to the electronic devices from the computer (Figure 2, Col. 7 lines 39 – 57).

Allison, which is also in the wireless and gateway arena, teaches a gateway comprising a message queue for storing inbound and outbound messages for the purpose of examining the messages to determine if and where said messages should

Art Unit: 2618

be routed (See Sections: 0036 lines 9 – 13, 0037 lines 3 – 7, 0042 line 4, lines 11 – 15, 0043 lines 3 – 4). It would thus have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the gateway of Petite with the message queue of Allison for the purpose of examining the messages to determine if and where said messages should be routed as taught by Allison.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 – 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petite et al. (US 6,891,838) in view of Conkright et al. (US 6,236,332) and in further view of Allison et al. (US 2003/0083078).

Regarding Claim 1, Petite teaches a communications module for facilitating wireless electronic communications with an electronic device, the module comprising: a processor (Figures 2, 5, Column 7 lines 38 – 52, the local gateway (110) is the communication module, processor (522)); a wireless module in electronic communication with the processor for wireless communications with the electronic device (Figure 2, Column 7 lines 38 – 52); a modem in electronic communication with the processor for communicating with the computer through a communications network

Art Unit: 2618

(Figures 2, 5, Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 9 lines 4 – 14, Column 18 lines 10 – 12); and memory in electronic communication with the processor for storing data (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43), the memory being programmed to periodically contact the computer (Column 4 lines 27 – 30, Column 7 lines 38 – 52). Petite further teaches outbound messages being sent from electronic devices to the computer and inbound messages being sent to the electronic devices from the computer (Figure 2, Col. 7 lines 39 – 57).

Petite does not teach a paging module in electronic communication with the processor for communicating with a computer through a paging network, an outbound message queue for storing outbound messages being sent from the electronic device to the computer and an inbound message queue for storing inbound messages being sent to the electronic device from the computer.

Conkright teaches a paging module for communicating through a paging network (Column 4 lines 7 – 10, communication is conducted via a paging network thus there will be a paging module).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the paging module taught in Conkright in the local gateway of Petite for the purpose of providing an alternative wireless means for remotely controlling and monitoring systems such as an HVAC system as taught by Conkright.

Allison teaches a gateway comprising a message queue for storing inbound and outbound messages (Sections: 0036 lines 9 – 13, 0037 lines 3 – 7, 0042 line 4, lines 11 – 15, 0043 lines 3 – 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the gateway of Petite in view of Conkright with the message queue of Allison for the purpose of message flow control, which is a well known feature of buffers.

Regarding Claim 25, Petite teaches a communications module for facilitating electronic communications between a computer and a remote electronic device wherein the communications module is programmed to contact the computer through a communications network, the module comprising: a processor (Figures 2, 5, Column 7 lines 38 – 52, the local gateway (110) is the communication module, processor (522)); a wireless module in electronic communication with the processor for wireless communications with the electronic device (Figure 2, Column 7 lines 38 – 52); a modem in electronic communication with the processor for communicating with the computer through a communications network (Figures 2, 5, Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 9 lines 4 – 14, Column 18 lines 10 – 12); and memory in electronic communication with the processor for storing data (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43). Petite further teaches outbound messages being sent from electronic devices to the computer and inbound messages being sent to the electronic devices from the computer (Figure 2, Col. 7 lines 39 – 57).

Petite does not teach wherein the computer is programmed to send pages to the communications module through a paging network and a paging module in electronic communication with the processor for receiving pager communications from the computer through the paging network, an outbound message queue for storing

outbound messages being sent from the electronic device to the computer and an inbound message queue for storing inbound messages being sent to the electronic device from the computer.

Conkright teaches wherein the computer is programmed to send pages through a paging network and a paging module for receiving pager communications from the computer through the paging network (Column 4 lines 7 – 10, communication is conducted via a paging network thus there will be a paging module).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the paging module taught in Conkright in the local gateway of Petite for the purpose of providing an alternative wireless means for remotely controlling and monitoring systems such as an HVAC system as taught by Conkright.

Allison teaches a gateway comprising a message queue for storing inbound and outbound messages (Sections: 0036 lines 9 – 13, 0037 lines 3 – 7, 0042 line 4, lines 11 – 15, 0043 lines 3 – 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the gateway of Petite in view of Conkright with the message queue of Allison for the purpose of message flow control, which is a well known feature of buffers.

Regarding Claims 2, 26, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 1, 25. Petite further teaches wherein the memory/communication module is programmed with instructions to cause the processor to communicate with the electronic device using the wireless module

(Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 17 lines 28 – 32, the CPU controls the functions conducted by the gateway thus the memory will have instructions enabling said functions to be conducted).

Regarding Claims 3, 27, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 1, 26. Petite further teaches wherein the memory/communication module is programmed with instructions to cause a communication with the computer (Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 17 lines 28 – 32, the CPU controls the functions conducted by the gateway thus the memory will have instructions enabling said functions to be conducted). Conkright further teaches a paging module (Column 4 lines 7 – 10).

Regarding Claims 4, 28, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 1, 27. Petite further teaches wherein the memory/communications module is programmed with instructions to cause communication with the computer through the communications network using a modem (Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 17 lines 28 – 32, the CPU controls the functions conducted by the gateway thus the memory will have instructions enabling said functions to be conducted).

Regarding Claims 5, 29, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 1, 28. Conkright further teaches wherein the paging module is a one-way paging module for receiving pages (Column 4 lines 7 – 10, a wireless paging network comprises one way and two way paging networks).

Regarding Claims 6, 30, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 1, 29. Petite further teaches wherein the processor is a microcontroller (Figure 5, CPUs comprise microcontrollers).

Regarding Claims 8, 31, Petite in view of Conkright teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 1, 30. Petite further teaches programmed to periodically contact the computer using the modem (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 9, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 8. Petite further teaches programmed to maintain an outbound message queue for outbound messages being sent from the electronic device to the computer (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claim 10, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 9. Petite further teaches programmed to send the outbound messages to the computer when the computer is periodically contacted (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 11, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 1. Petite further teaches programmed to be periodically contacted by the electronic device (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 12, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 1. Petite further teaches

programmed to be periodically contacted by the electronic device through the wireless module (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 13, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 12. Petite further teaches programmed to maintain an outbound message queue for outbound messages received from the electronic device (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claim 14, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 13. Petite further teaches programmed to store the outbound messages received from the electronic device in the outbound message queue (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claim 15, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 14. Petite further teaches programmed to send the outbound messages to the computer when the computer is periodically contacted (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claims 16, 32, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 8, 31. Petite further teaches maintaining an inbound message queue for inbound messages being sent to the electronic device (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claims 17, 33, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 16, 32. Petite further teaches programmed to receive the inbound messages from the computer when the computer is periodically contacted (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claims 18, 34, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 17, 33. Petite further teaches programmed to store the inbound messages in the inbound message queue (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claim 19, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 18. Petite further teaches programmed to be periodically contacted by the electronic device (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claims 20, 35, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 18, 34. Petite further teaches programmed to be periodically contacted by the electronic device through the wireless module (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claims 21, 36, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 19, 35. Petite further teaches programmed to send the inbound messages to the electronic device when the electronic device periodically contacts the communication module (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claims 22, 37, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 18, 36. Petite further teaches wherein each inbound message includes a device ID (Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2).

Regarding Claim 23, 38, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 22, 37. Petite further teaches programmed to identify the electronic device when the electronic device periodically contacts the communication module (Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2) and further programmed to search the inbound message queue for appropriate inbound messages for the electronic device and to transmit the appropriate inbound messages to the electronic device (Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2).

Regarding Claims 24, 42, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claims 1, 28. Petite further teaches programmed to contact the computer using the modem in response to a request communication (Column 7 lines 38 – 52). Conkright further teaches a communication received through the paging module (Column 4 lines 7 – 10).

Regarding Claim 39, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 38. Petite further teaches programmed to maintain an outbound message queue for outbound messages received from the electronic device (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claim 40, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 39. Petite further teaches programmed to store the outbound messages received from the electronic device in the outbound message queue (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claim 41, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 40. Petite further teaches programmed to send the outbound messages to the computer when the computer is periodically contacted (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 43, Petite teaches a communications module for facilitating electronic communications between a computer and a plurality of remote electronic devices, wherein the communications module is programmed to contact the computer through a communications network, the module comprising: a processor (Figures 2, 5, Column 7 lines 38 – 52, the local gateway (110) is the communication module, processor (522)); a wireless module in electronic communication with the processor for wireless communications with the plurality of electronic devices (Figure 2, Column 7 lines 38 – 52); a modem in electronic communication with the processor for communicating with the computer through a communications network (Figures 2, 5, Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 9 lines 4 – 14, Column 18 lines 10 – 12); and memory in electronic communication with the processor for storing data (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43). Petite further teaches outbound messages being sent from a plurality of

remote electronic devices to the computer and inbound messages being sent to the plurality of remote electronic devices from the computer (Figure 2, Col. 7 lines 39 – 57).

Petite does not teach wherein the computer is programmed to send pages to the communications module through a paging network and a paging module in electronic communication with the processor for receiving pager communications from the computer through the paging network, an outbound message queue for storing outbound messages being sent from the plurality of remote electronic devices to the computer and an inbound message queue for storing inbound messages being sent to the plurality of remote electronic devices from the computer.

Conkright teaches wherein the computer is programmed to send pages through a paging network and a paging module for receiving pager communications from the computer through the paging network (Column 4 lines 7 – 10, communication is conducted via a paging network thus there will be a paging module)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the paging module taught in Conkright in the local gateway of Petite for the purpose of providing an alternative wireless means for remotely controlling and monitoring systems such as an HVAC system as taught by Conkright.

Allison teaches a gateway comprising a message queue for storing inbound and outbound messages (Sections: 0036 lines 9 – 13, 0037 lines 3 – 7, 0042 line 4, lines 11 – 15, 0043 lines 3 – 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the gateway of Petite in view of Conkright with the

message queue of Allison for the purpose of message flow control, which is a well known feature of buffers.

Regarding Claims 44, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 43. Petite further teaches wherein the memory/communication module is programmed with instructions to cause the processor to communicate with the electronic device using the wireless module (Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 17 lines 28 – 32, the CPU controls the functions conducted by the gateway thus the memory will have instructions enabling said functions to be conducted).

Regarding Claim 45, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 44. Petite further teaches wherein the memory/communication module is programmed with instructions to cause a communication with the computer (Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 17 lines 28 – 32, the CPU controls the functions conducted by the gateway thus the memory will have instructions enabling said functions to be conducted). Conkright further teaches a paging module (Column 4 lines 7 – 10).

Regarding Claim 46, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 45. Petite further teaches wherein the memory/communications module is programmed with instructions to cause communication with the computer through the communications network using a modem (Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 17 lines 28 – 32, the CPU controls the functions

conducted by the gateway thus the memory will have instructions enabling said functions to be conducted).

Regarding Claim 47, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 46. Conkright further teaches wherein the paging module is a one-way paging module for receiving pages (Column 4 lines 7 – 10, a wireless paging network comprises one way and two way paging networks).

Regarding Claim 48, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 47. Petite further teaches wherein the processor is a microcontroller (Figure 5, CPUs comprise microcontrollers).

Regarding Claim 49, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 48. Petite further teaches programmed to periodically contact the computer using the modem (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 50, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 49. Petite further teaches maintaining an inbound message queue for inbound messages being sent to the plurality of electronic devices (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claim 51, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 50. Petite further teaches

programmed to receive the inbound messages from the computer when the computer is periodically contacted (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 52, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 51. Petite further teaches programmed to store the inbound messages in the inbound message queue (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claim 53, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 52. Petite further teaches programmed to be periodically contacted by the electronic device through the wireless module (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 54, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 53. Petite further teaches wherein each inbound message includes a device ID (Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2).

Regarding Claim 55, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 54. Petite further teaches programmed to identify the electronic device when the electronic device periodically contacts the communication module (Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2) and further programmed to search the inbound message queue for appropriate inbound messages using the ID for the electronic device and to transmit the appropriate inbound messages to the electronic device (Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2).

Regarding Claim 56, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 55. Petite further teaches programmed to maintain an outbound message queue for outbound messages received from the plurality of electronic devices (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claim 57, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 56. Petite further teaches programmed to store the outbound messages received from the plurality of electronic devices in the outbound message queue (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43, lines 54 – 65, the memory comprises the inbound and outbound message queues).

Regarding Claim 58, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 57. Petite further teaches programmed to send the outbound messages to the computer when the computer is periodically contacted (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 59, Petite teaches a method for facilitating electronic communications between a computer and a remote electronic device the method comprising: sending an inbound message, by the computer, to a communication module wherein the communication module comprises: a processor (Figures 2, 5, Column 7 lines 38 – 52, the local gateway (110) is the communication module, processor (522)); a wireless module in electronic communication with the processor for wireless communications with the electronic device (Figure 2, Column 7 lines 38 – 52); a modem in electronic communication with the processor for communicating with the computer

Art Unit: 2618

through a communications network (Figures 2, 5, Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 9 lines 4 – 14, Column 18 lines 10 – 12); and memory in electronic communication with the processor for storing data (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43); sending the inbound message to the electronic device (Figure 2, Column 7 lines 38 – 52); receiving an outbound message from the electronic device (Figure 2, Column 7 lines 38 – 52); and sending the outbound message to the computer from the communications module (Figure 2, Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Petite does not teach a paging module in electronic communication with the processor for receiving pager communications from the computer through the paging network, storing the inbound message in an inbound message queue, and storing the outbound message in an outbound message queue.

Conkright teaches a paging module for receiving pager communications from the computer through the paging network (Column 4 lines 7 – 10, communication is conducted via a paging network thus there will be a paging module).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the paging module taught in Conkright in the local gateway of Petite for the purpose of providing an alternative wireless means for remotely controlling and monitoring systems such as an HVAC system as taught by Conkright.

Allison teaches a gateway comprising a message queue for storing inbound and outbound messages (Sections: 0036 lines 9 – 13, 0037 lines 3 – 7, 0042 line 4, lines 11 – 15, 0043 lines 3 – 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the gateway of Petite in view of Conkright with the message queue of Allison for the purpose of message flow control, which is a well known feature of buffers.

Regarding Claim 60, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 59. Petite further teaches communicating with the electronic device when the electronic device periodically contacts the communications module (Figure 2, Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 61, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 59. Petite further teaches wherein sending the inbound message to the electronic device is accomplished through use of the wireless module (Figure 2, Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 62, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 59. Sandelman further teaches wherein sending the outbound message to the computer from the communication module is accomplished through use of the modem (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 63, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 59. Sandelman further teaches programmed to periodically contact the computer using the modem (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 64, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 63. Petite further teaches

programmed to receive the inbound messages from the computer when the computer is periodically contacted (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 65, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 64. Petite further teaches programmed to send the outbound messages to the computer when the computer is periodically contacted (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 66, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 59. Petite further teaches programmed to be periodically contacted by the electronic device through the wireless module (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 67, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 66. Petite further teaches programmed to send the inbound messages to the electronic device when the electronic device periodically contacts the communication module (Column 7 lines 38 – 52).

Regarding Claim 68, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 59. Petite further teaches programmed to identify the electronic device when the electronic device periodically contacts the communication module (Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2).

Regarding Claim 69, Petite in view of Conkright and in further view of Allison teaches all of the claimed limitations recited in Claim 68. Petite further teaches searching the inbound message queue for appropriate inbound messages for the

Art Unit: 2618

electronic device and transmitting the appropriate inbound messages to the electronic device (Column 18 lines 48 – 67, Column 19 lines 1 – 2).

5. Claim 70 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petite et al. (US 6,891,838) in view of Lassig et al. (US 6,229,846) and in further view of Allison et al. (US 2003/0083078).

Regarding Claim 70, Petite teaches a communications module for facilitating wireless electronic communications with an electronic device, the module comprising: a processor (Figures 2, 5, Column 7 lines 38 – 52, the local gateway (110) is the communication module, processor (522)); a wireless module in electronic communication with the processor for wireless communications with the electronic device (Figure 2, Column 7 lines 38 – 52); a first modem in electronic communication with the processor for communicating with the computer through a communications network (Figures 2, 5, Column 7 lines 38 – 52, Column 9 lines 4 – 14, Column 18 lines 10 – 12); and memory in electronic communication with the processor for storing data (Figure 5, Column 17 lines 21 – 43).

Petite does not teach a second modem in electronic communication with the processor for communicating with a computer through the communications network, an outbound message queue for storing outbound messages being sent from the electronic device to the computer and an inbound message queue for storing inbound messages being sent to the electronic device from the computer.

Lassig teaches a second modem for communicating through a communications network (Column 3 lines 61 – 63).

Petite teaches a gateway comprising more than one mechanism or means, such as DSL modem and an ISDN modem, for communicating with the WAN (Column 18 lines 3 – 19). It would thus have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the gateway with ISDN-BRI line circuitry taught by Lassig as alternative high speed data means for communicating with the WAN as taught by Lassig.

Allison teaches a gateway comprising a message queue for storing inbound and outbound messages (Sections: 0036 lines 9 – 13, 0037 lines 3 – 7, 0042 line 4, lines 11 – 15, 0043 lines 3 – 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the gateway of Petite in view of Lassig with the message queue of Allison for the purpose of message flow control, which is a well known feature of buffers.


Conclusion

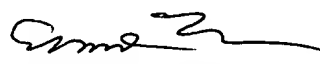
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Raymond S. Dean whose telephone number is 571-272-7877. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:00-2:30.

Art Unit: 2618

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward F. Urban can be reached on 571-272-7899. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Raymond S. Dean
August 31, 2006


EDWARD F. URBAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600